

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a functional beverage, wherein the functional beverage comprises 1 mg to 30 mg/100 ml of at least one catechin selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallicatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived extracted from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of Benifuuki, Benifudi, Benihomare, Yaeho, Yutakamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

2. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is produced by extracting tea leaves.

3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is labeled to be effective for at least one of suppressing allergic rhinitis and effective for improving hyperlipidemia and gallbladder/liver function.

6. **(Currently amended)** A method of reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a composition comprising an effective amount of at least one catechin selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallicatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived extracted from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of Benifuuki, Benifudi, Benihomare, Yaeho, Yutakamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

Appl. No.: 10/588,428
Filing Date: August 4, 2006

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food/beverage, internal medicine, liniment, nose wash, nose drops, cosmetic or eye drops.